

VIA Chief, Security Research Staff
Chief, Technical Branch

A/B, 7, 30/1
23 September 1953

Proposed Research

1. A suggested research program for ARTICHOKE purposes is hereby presented. Although it has been impossible to go into this idea in great detail, some of the pertinent facts follow:

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2. The undersigned served in the [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. In an informal discussion with him, in which I did not disclose my particular interests, I have learned that [REDACTED] carries on many of its experiments within the federal prisons. Several so-called dangerous experiments were conducted in federal prisons and there is great co-operation between the Bureau and the research organization.

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3. Interesting from the ARTICHOKE point of view is the fact that there are some four thousand (4,000) American military men who are serving court martial sentences in the federal prisons at the present time. These men are scattered through the federal institutions according to their age -- some being at reformatories, others at prisons. It is administratively possible that the sentences of these men can be reduced by direction of the Adjutant General's office. Therefore, if these men should be wanted for work on a dangerous research project, it might be possible to motivate their interest by promising that recommendations would be made to the Adjutant General's office to have their sentences appropriately reduced if they co-operated in the experimentation. Also many offenses of military men were committed in circumstances which might tend to lessen the feeling of guilt on the part of the individual and such cases might reveal interesting information.

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4. Another bit of information that came up is that the warden of [REDACTED] is an M.D. Such an individual might be very interested in experiments along ARTICHOKE lines. The closest federal institution (with the exception of National Training School) is at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

5. All federal prisons have hospital setups with doctors on the permanent staff. Such things as the size of the institution and current population would have to be considered but it is a fact that the federal prisons are not overcrowded as is the case with many state prisons; thus, it would be much easier to obtain working space in a federal institution.

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6. In order to pursue the possibility of carrying on ANTI-CHOKE research in federal prisons, it would be necessary to clear [REDACTED] my friend, who would be the contact, and the warden of the institution selected. It may not even be necessary to clear the medics in the institution if the ANTI-CHOKE team would represent itself as a research team from a university or a research organization. At most, it would be necessary only to clear the chief medic. Since both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are located in the city, it would be very easy to definitely determine the feasibility of such a project with no expense. I understand that [REDACTED] who has been a [REDACTED] since its inception, has engaged in many high-level government activities and may already be cleared for contact by this Agency.

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7. May I request that you consider this possibility and advise me whether you desire any further action to be taken.

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[REDACTED]